

IAS - 38/75

3 June 1975

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, DDI Executive Staff

SUBJECT : Security Classification Act of 1975

REFERENCE : Your memo of 21 May 1975, same subject

1. As you point out, the proposed bill does contain many obvious problems and is deserving of a thorough review by the entire intelligence community. The following are comments you requested on how the bill would affect the DDI.

2. The provisions for assigning and exercising classifying authority are a little more of an administrative burden than the present system. The question becomes "How much is too much?" We could operate under the proposed bill, but with a definite increase in administrative costs.

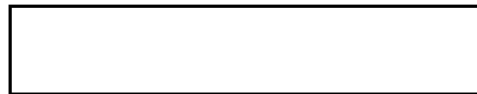
3. The classification criteria seem to omit "intelligence information" as opposed to information related to U.S. plans, policies, operations, and weapons systems. This would make our life in the DDI very difficult. Some criteria should be established under the various classification levels to protect information obtained through intelligence activities, the disclosure of which would jeopardize sensitive sources and methods. Without such a caveat, it would be difficult to justify classification of any DDI products Clarification is also essential concerning whose weapons systems--Soviets' or ours--are covered in the various classification levels. Under (d)(2)(A) the "non-compromised" provision, if it relates to foreign weapons systems, could be a real horror to handle. It would mean immediate loss of classification authority as soon as a single compromise occurred. The administrative task of keeping track of "compromised" versus "non-compromised" weapons systems, etc., could be enormous.

4. The provisions for automatic downgrading and declassification would be an administrative nightmare. It appears that the Directorate would eventually publish two or three downgrading notices for every original document published--plus the burden of bookkeeping on review dates, distribution of notices, remarking of individual documents, etc. The exemptions appear to apply only to "TOP SECRET" classified documents, with no parallel exemption provisions for documents originally classified "SECRET" or "CONFIDENTIAL." The requirement for written support of each exemption

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determination would be an overwhelming administrative burden. And the review provisions of (e)(9) could eat up the entire manpower resources of the Agency. The proposed Classification Review Commission (CRC) could become the largest unit in the U.S. Government. The proposed time intervals for automatic downgrading and declassification appear to be so short that they would interfere with the conduct of most agencies' routine business.

5. Assuming that the obvious problem and inadequacies are corrected, it appears that the proposed bill would primarily impact on the DDI through greatly increased administrative costs in complying with its provisions.



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